Homie House Press
& Prince George's County
Memorial Library System
present



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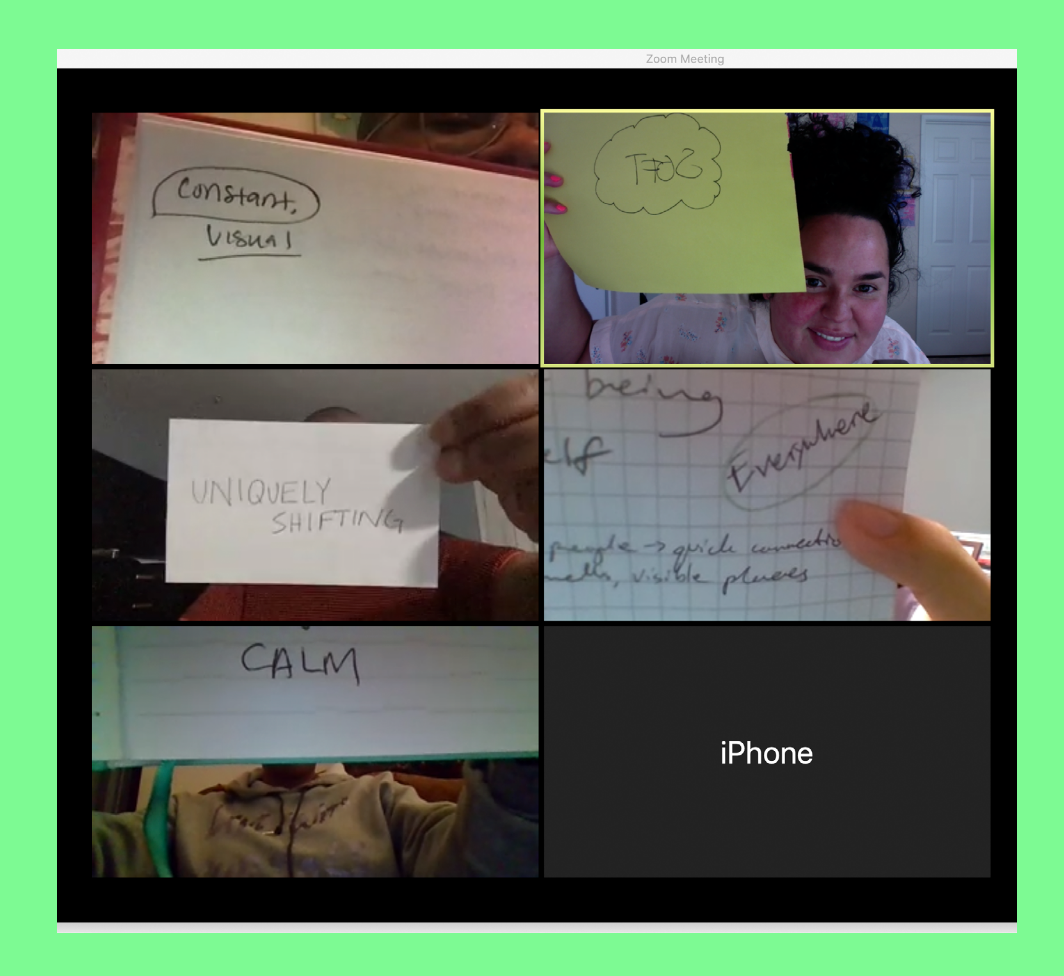
PG county edition

Home In The Other
Volumes 5

CO-AUTHORS :

PGCMLS *& HOMIE HOUSE PRESS* WORKSHOP *9/23/20*

We are living in unprecedented times



Screenshot of Adriana Monsalve and the participants during the workshop.

which make the concept of home a privilege to some, a burden to many, and a paradox to others. When we talk about home, we are not only talking about the walls we have been confined to since the pandemic — we are tapping into the idea of others as home, environment as home, home in the inanimate, art as home, and ultimately our own bodies as concepts of home.

If home is the people and spaces we feel safety, comfort, and community within; our ideas of this construct are currently under question. How are we maintaining these ideas of home through an uprising, not to mention a pandemic? We were all born into a white supremecist culture that is pervasively violent. How do we, as a community, and as individuals, rip out the deep seeded racist oppressive roots of our nations? How are the sentiments shared in the streets held together through virtual spaces? What is bringing you back to yourself in these uncertain times? Are you adapting and evolving to new ideas of home? Have your ideas of home had to change at all?

As an immigrant adjacent, queer, latinx, femme – I have spent the last six years excavating the loss and finding of home through the multitude of identities that come together within me. HHP now invites the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to join us in a dynamic and cooperative expedition into the other. We will investigate the realities, feelings, and doubts we have all been hanging onto since the commencement of our new normal at the intersection of care + rebellion.

Your personal narrative is a powerful tool. We can dismantle the 'other' when we trust ourselves with our own stories and are willing to take them into vulnerable spaces. Home in the Other is a collaborative book-making project using the mediums of photography, writing, drawing, collage, painting, performance pieces, anything really! Collaborators are asked to engage with their individual experience and parallel that with another's' encounter. Through this intimate and investigative process, we delve deep into kinship and community. Together, we can further understand our current condition through this intersectional workshop.

– Adriana Monsalve

These objects, mementos, living entities are all pieces of the puzzle that is me. They have fostered the realization that the meaning of home is not simply relegated to space(s) where one can physically exist but also to the tender moments of reflection that can be elicited from the scent, touch, smell, sight or taste of objects of importance.



Everlasting Roses
Sourced from the final resting place of a sibling in 2017. I intended on holding on to the live roses however long they lasted, assuming that would be a few weeks max. To my surprise, they naturally dried instead of dying and have acted as a 'living' reminder of Maya.



Sankofa
This print by @RahmBow is technically the first piece of art I've acquired as an adult since I've began to grow my collection. Sankofa is a word in the Twi language of Ghana that translates to "Go back and get it" and also refers to the Bono Adinkra symbol represented either with a stylized heart shape or by a bird with its head turned backwards while its feet face forward carrying a precious egg in its mouth.

Plants
A more recent hobby of mine has been growing plants. I've successfully killed one but I've named the two larger plants pictured after ancestors (Esther + George) so I feel a new level of responsibility to continue to foster life for them in the same way that the plants and the ancestors have fostered my own life respectively. The smaller pot is basil. Garden loading...





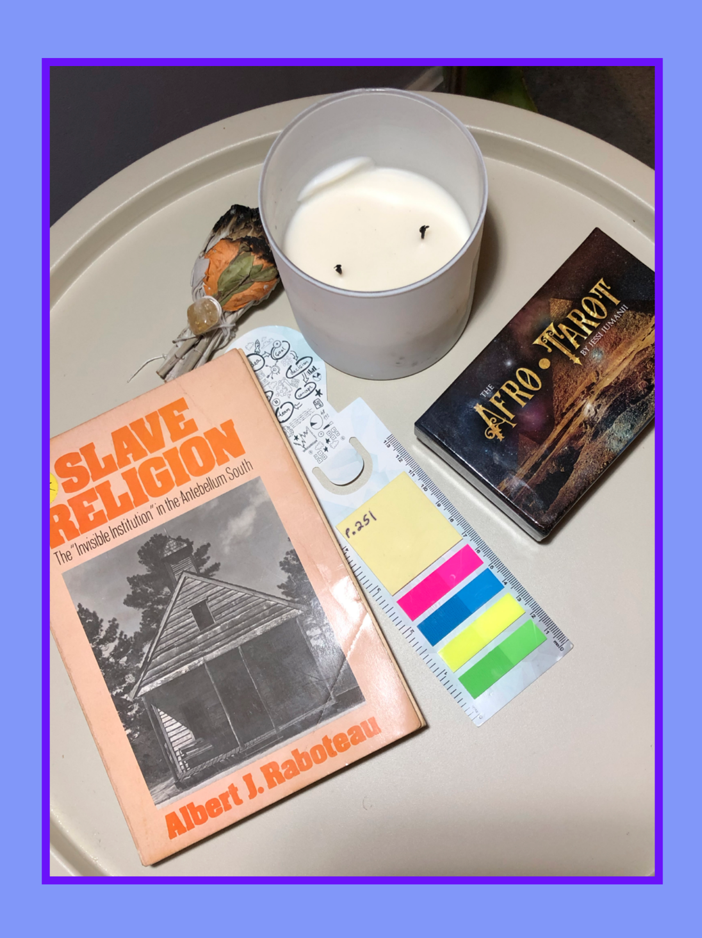
Books on Wicker

Next to my bedside is a wicker table that I sourced from my grandmother. It reminds me of childhood and is likely one of the oldest items that I have in my possession; maybe even older than me. Atop the table are books that I interchange regularly. The titles featured are those that represent my life: (1) as a gay black man who has an ever-growing reverence for the embracing of femininity and masculinity and (2) the search for my place in the modern-day resistance led by Black and brown people.

Home is when you feel it.

Routine. Structure. Hugs.

I am home, but also hunting for home. In between.



I did not want to photograph my altar, but I realize it is such a grounding space. I arranged some of the elements here — my candle, tarot, cards and sage.

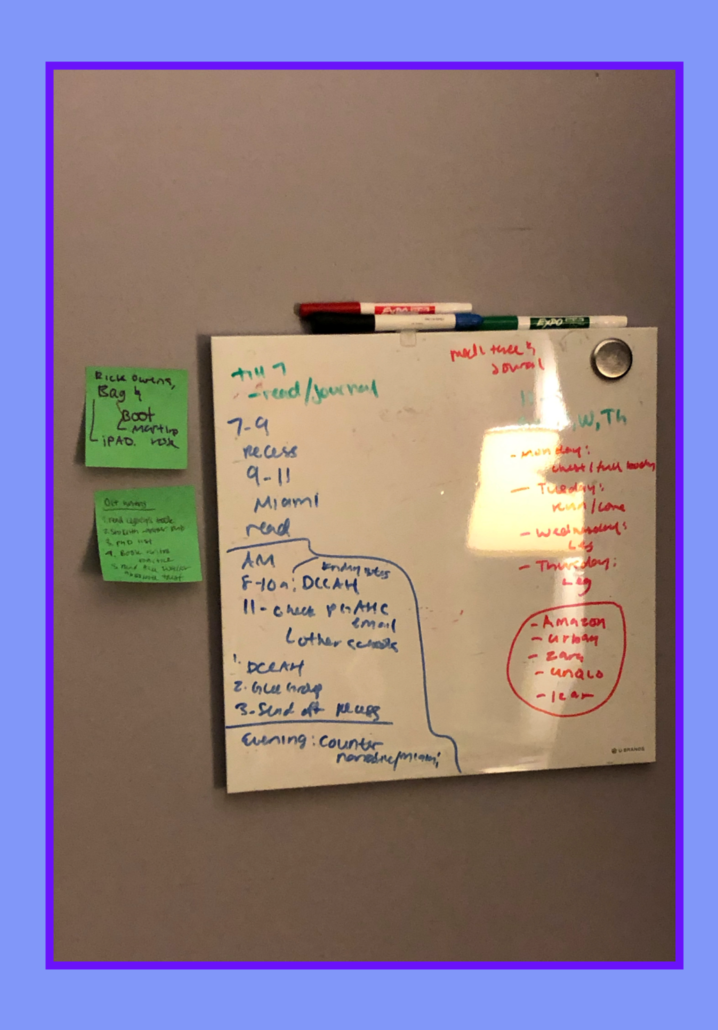




Being in my childhood home, I am feeling comforted by the art and family photos on the walls.

Art. This portrait by Moniqe Muse Dodd has traveled to three homes with me. I adore it. I love when I find myself in the same posture of the man in the photo. I gaze up and see myself.





My white board feels so necessary now.



My Mammy. I always elevate her. I adore her role in my space and in our lives. She is ancestral, she is the caretaker, she is sacred and deserves proper care. She deserves rest for the labor and harm endured.

WHAT *IS* HOME

State of being full self free

Routine, Skincare, Hugs

Active

Safe
Safety
Protected

Always Changing

This is a collaborative digital space between the Prince George's County Memorial Library System and Homie House Press! We hope you enjoy spending time with our offerings in the form of creations as we navigate feelings on the current conditions of a global pandemic, civil unrest, and personal revolutions during the Fall of 2020. This zine was made two weeks before the presidential election. If you are reading this and have not yet exercised your right and power to vote, we urge you do so right now, here: https://www.vote.org

About Homie House Press:
Adriana Monsalve + Caterina Ragg, spearhead the multi-faceted space of Homie House Press. They are a skeleton bones crew of femmes creating + publishing in the foto book medium. They are photographers + book makers + educators holding space for and with underrepresented communities. They are a playground where fotos become books, a safe space for secret stories and an open house for honest content. Find them migrating through the in-betweenness of all that we are.
Website: Homie House Press
Instagram: @HomieHousePress

About Prince George's County Memorial Library System:
(PGCMLS) is the public library system of Prince George's County, Maryland, United States, in the Washington metropolitan area. Some of the services offered by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System are: print, audio, video and electronic materials, storytimes and early literacy programs, programs for teens, book discussions, the Summer Reading Program, author readings and presentations, public PCs and wireless access, electronic databases, outreach services, special needs services, meeting rooms, and volunteer opportunities.
Website: Prince George's County Memorial Library System

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Thank you
to the Prince George's County Memorial Library System and the administration for making this collaboration possible.

Forward
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Published in PG County, MD
Homie House Press

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